

DOUBLE DIAMOND WILDERNESS TRAILS



GUIDING & OUTFITTING

2006 and Winter 2007 Hunt Report

ARCHERY HUNTS

Big **Jon Roark (TX)** was back once again to arrow a big whitetail. After watching a big buck at dark one evening, for 45 minutes at 100 yards, Jon could not close the gap and had to let him walk away. We hunted a few days for this deer but he never showed back up. This buck was later killed by a local in rifle season and ended up at 178 B&C typical. Jon and I moved locations to a piece of property that was new to us, with lots of deer sign we new this was the place. We set up shop in their travel corridor and on his first night spotted the buck he wanted but could not get an arrow in. The next evening Jon was back in the same stand waiting for the big guy. Right at dark two bucks appeared with the big guy in the lead and when they went behind some scrub brush, Jon came to full draw. At first site Jon pin wheeled the lead deer. Oops, the old switcharoo had occurred and Jon had the wrong buck dead, maybe next year Jon.



Tom Laumann with his 2006 archery whitetail

Late October found the Florida crew back once again. The boys had their game faces on and were ready for action. It did not take long, on the second night of the hunt **Jeremy Ackerman** wounded a great deer that we were never able to find. It took a lot of convincing but we got him back in the tree and late into the hunt he made a great shot at 10 yards on an ancient buck that was obviously regressing. **Tom Laumann** was next and stuck a great 140 class deer at 40 yards on day four. Tom was done with whitetail and opted to try his luck at mule deer. He took a long shot at a great mulie but it slipped right under his belly for the miss. **Carl Ackerman** was bow hunting mule deer this year so that he could return in November for a whitetail rifle hunt. We were trying hard to get the mule deer monkey of his back after last year. Persistence paid off and he shot a great 4x4 buck at 35 yards. Congratulations Carl. Last but not least was **Brian Mitchell**. This is were the story gets sad. Brian sat like a trooper with not much success until late into the hunt. On day five, right behind my house, Brian missed a huge deer at 15 yards. I later had an opportunity to see this deer and my best judge has him pegged at 170 B&C. Needless to say, Brian will be back in 2007 to sit behind my house. We look forward to seeing you all back in 2007, as we always have a great time.

RIFLE HUNTS

November found cold weather and finally some snow, things were shaping up for some prime rutting conditions. Our first hunt began with an old friend by the name **Jay Stearns**. Jay and I go way back, he has hunted with us from the beginning and we always have a blast. Jay made it easy on me this year and killed a great 150 B&C deer on the first day, right behind my house. All he could say for himself is, "Jeremy, I watched him to long and had to do it. We just don't see those kind of deer in New Hampshire". It was a great deer and I look forward to our hunt together in September for Cape Buffalo. Joining Jay on this hunt was repeat hunter **Frank Gillespie (OR)**. Frank killed a deer pushing 160 B&C 2 years ago with me and was back looking to better it. Franks last hunt took all of 10 minutes and we were hoping to beat it this year. Frank and guide John Hatala hunted hard and passed on some great 150" deer. Finally they saw the type of deer they were looking for and proceeded to lay down some lead. When the dust had cleared, the deer had won and Frank went home without. Frank's long time hunting partner, **Mike Todd (WA)**, killed a great non-typical on the last day of his hunt at 90 yards from a ground blind. All Mike could talk about though, was the one he missed 3 times with the 23" inside spread.



Harv Hurly with his 2006 rifle whitetail

Our last rifle hunt was also filled with friends that have hunted with us before. Long time hunter Carl Ackerman, and his dad **James Ackerman** joined us, along with repeat hunters **Harv & Doug Hurley**. Harv and Doug hunted with us last year with no success, and were looking to turn the tables on the deer. This is exactly what they did; Doug and his guide **Dennis Nicols** blazed a beautiful 150" deer on the first evening. Guide **John Hatala** and James also found a good buck early on the hunt. The deer was huge and James was excited and missed at 60 yards, those boys had to go back to the drawing board. It was not long though and James had a great 8 point with a 21" inside spread. Good job boys. I am not sure what was going on, but my guides were doing a lot better job than me. I just could not find a deer better than 145" for Harv or Carl. Finally late in the hunt I

managed to put Harv on a great 10 point in the low 150's. He made no mistakes and anchored that buck. Carl never did get to clip his whitetail tag in 2006, he passed up around 6 deer in that 150" range looking for mister big. He did miss one buck that I pushed to him but he would never tell me how big it was. Maybe that is why he is coming back again in 2007. He does like his secrets. Thanks to all of you for making our 2006 season a huge success.

SPRING 2007 WOLF HUNTS

During February and March 2007 we offered "The Ultimate Predator Hunt". This wolf/ coyote combination hunt was an experimental hunt and we liked it so much we will be offering it again in 2008. I started scouting in Dec. for wolf activity and managed to put out 8 bait sites. Within a month all these baits were active with wolves and coyotes.

Our first hunt started with **Jim Markle (MT), Chris Faber "Bear Paw Hunts" (MT), and Mike Aokoniewski (CT)**. The boys were determined and spent long days in the ground blinds with little to no action. Finally Mike saw a wolf headed toward the bait at 350 yards. Mike decided not to take the shot thinking the sly old dog would come right to the bait site at 200 Yards. Needless to say the wolf was a no show and Mike still did not have a wolf. Four of five nights Mike had wolves howling around his bait site but could not get a visual. Chris had a similar experience and right at dark one night was surrounded by wolves howling up a storm. His hair was standing up at the back of his neck but he could not get his cross hairs one. He eased out of his ground blind hoping to sneak a peak at one of the dogs making all the noise. Once out, he realized his gun had froze and jammed. He did what every one of us would do and crawled back into his blind and waited for us to pick him up. My predator partner, **Abe Dougan** of "Big Boar Outfitters" and I decided it was time to try something different. In desperation we opted to try what we decided to call "Ground and Pound". This new technique would prove to be the ticket to our problems. With fresh snow we tracked the animals until we knew exactly where they were. We then placed hunters on the surrounding cut lines in the most likely places for the wolves to cross. Once this was done Abe or I would get on the tracks and follow them through, while the other guy stayed on the skidoo running the back line to ensure they would not cross out the back door. Man did we discover something effective. We spent the last day doing this and 3 hunters saw 11 wolves and we should have killed two of them. Maybe next year boys.



Willard Swanke with this beautiful black wolf

Our second hunt started with warm weather and a heavy melt. This pretty much ruled out the ground and pound method. **Kevin and Willard Swanke , and Wayne Buchholz** all hailing from North Dakota were forced to stick it out in the ground blinds. The boys had patience and persistence and it paid off. Willard was the first guy to get some excitement and just after legal shooting light had 3 wolves in front of him but was not able to shoot. A couple days later Wayne had a pack of 12 come in and he managed to anchor a beautiful black wolf. With all the activity on this bait we took a gamble and put Kevin there hoping the pack would be missing their buddy. It worked and a lone 100 lb. adult male walked in for Kevin, and he made no mistakes blazing him on the spot. As you can see we have it pretty much figured out and are looking forward to next year. Thanks for hunting with us guys, we look forward to many more hunts with you in the future.

Keep watching the site for the 2007 spring bear hunt report and pictures. We are busting open some new ground this spring in search of some monster bears. We know that they are there and we will be bringing some huge bears home.

Contact us for your next whitetail deer & mule deer hunt in Alberta.

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